

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously presented) A method for reducing a level of amyloid- $\beta$  ( $A\beta$ ) peptides in vivo, which method comprises administering an  $A\beta$  level reducing dose of an estrogen compound to an animal, wherein the animal has an increased level of  $A\beta$ , and wherein the dose of the estrogen compound does not affect soluble APP levels.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the level of amyloid is a level of soluble amyloid in the brain of the animal.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the estrogen compound is  $17\beta$ -estradiol.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the estrogen compound is a composition of conjugated equine estrogen.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the  $A\beta$  peptides comprise  $A\beta_{42}$  and  $\beta_{40}$ , which method further comprises reducing the ratio of  $A\beta_{42}$  to  $A\beta_{40}$ .

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the  $A\beta$  peptides are  $A\beta_{42}$  peptides.

7-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method for delaying or reducing the likelihood of, or ameliorating, a disease or disorder associated with  $A\beta$  amyloidosis, which method comprises administering an  $A\beta$  level reducing dose of ~~an estrogen compound~~  $17\beta$ -estradiol to a subject who has an increased risk for developing or shows a symptom of the disease or disorder associated with amyloidosis, wherein the dose of ~~the estrogen compound~~  $17\beta$ -estradiol does not affect soluble APP levels.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the ~~estrogen compound~~ 17 $\beta$ -estradiol is administered daily for at least ten days.

23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the ~~estrogen compound~~ 17 $\beta$ -estradiol is administered by a controlled release device.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the disease or disorder associated with amyloidosis is Alzheimer's disease.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein a ratio of A $\beta$ 42 to A $\beta$ 40 is reduced in the subject.

26-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the dose of conjugated equine estrogen is selected from the group consisting of 0.3 mg, 0.625 mg, 1.25 mg, and 2.5 mg.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)